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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 45th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HADID (Algeria)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 11.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 138: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued)

Support account for peace-keeping operations (A/C.5/48/L.32)

1. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.32, which was the result of a consensus reached in informal consultations. In the opinion of delegations, measures relating to the support account must be adopted as a matter of urgency. The decision to be adopted at the current session was of a provisional nature and would be re-examined during the resumed forty-eighth session of the General Assembly following submission by the Secretary-General of the report requested by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 6 of its report (A/48/757). The 15 posts funded from the support account were additional to the supernumerary posts funded from the regular budget, in accordance with the authorization contained in section C, paragraph 41, of draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.34. Certain delegations had been somewhat reluctant to see the posts requested for the Peace-keeping Financing Division funded from the support account because, in their view, international peace and security constituted one of the fundamental purposes of the United Nations and the core posts of that Division should therefore be funded from the regular budget. It was suggested that the draft resolution be adopted without a vote.
2. Mr. CHUINKAM (Cameroon) asked what the Secretariat's plans were with respect to the posts whose funding from the support account had not been recommended by the Committee.
3. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) replied that paragraph 1 of the draft resolution referred to the posts which would be funded from the support account. There were also other posts, not mentioned there, mainly in the Department of Administration and Management, which had already been approved by the Advisory Committee. All those posts covered essential functions in terms of recruitment, financial control, auditing, purchasing and transport, general services (not yet approved), medical and spokesman services for peace-keeping operations. If the posts were not approved, the essential work already being performed would be affected.
4. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.32 without a vote.
5. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.32 was adopted.
6. Mr. CHUINKAM (Cameroon) said he hoped that the Secretariat would be able to obtain the necessary resources to fund the posts already established and that the issue would be taken up again at the resumed forty-eighth session.

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7. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said his delegation was not entirely satisfied with the resolution just adopted since it could create short-term financial difficulties for the Secretariat which it would have been preferable to avoid. It was regrettable that proper consideration of agenda item 138 had proved impossible during the current session. He hoped that it would be possible to return to the issue as soon as possible at the resumed forty-eighth session and that the Secretariat would provide a clear and detailed account of the support account and the regular budget and the way in which both sources of funding were meant to function. It might then be possible to reach a different decision. Until then, the provisional measures adopted should allow the Secretariat to function efficiently.

8. Mr. MADDENS (Belgium), endorsing the views expressed by the representative of Canada, said that the European Union had during the general debate rejected the idea that activities related to peace-keeping should be funded entirely from extrabudgetary resources. He hoped that the General Assembly would, at its resumed forty-eighth session, be able to decide what was meant by substantive activities and what by activities in support of peace-keeping operations.

9. Ms. WELLS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) stressed the concern to which paragraph 1 of the resolution just adopted had given rise in the Department of Administration and Management. The proposed reductions came at a time when, as a result of the expansion of peace-keeping operations, the central support services had to cope with an ever increasing programme of work. It was therefore important to signal the consequences which the proposed reductions would have for the Department's capacity to fulfil its commitments.

10. The Accounts Division was responsible for processing all the financial transactions relating to peace-keeping, including payments to suppliers and Governments, the payment of salaries to all the international staff assigned to peace-keeping missions, the keeping of accounts and the submission of related reports to the General Assembly. Over the past four years, the payroll had grown by 40 per cent, total payments to suppliers by 100 per cent, and travel costs had also increased substantially. If those functions were not performed, the harmonious functioning of peace-keeping operations would be affected. Nevertheless, as a result of the draft resolution just adopted, six posts devoted to those functions were to be abolished. If support could not be provided for the basic processing of transactions, peace-keeping activities would be undermined. Although computerized accounting and payroll systems had been introduced for peace-keeping operations, the support of the Accounts Division was required for their proper application and operation. It would very likely prove impossible to close the accounts and submit financial statements to the auditors by 31 March 1994.

11. With regard to personnel, it had been proposed that 13 posts for the Office of Human Resources Management be funded from the support account for peace-keeping operations. The proposal before the Fifth Committee would reduce the Secretary-General's proposals by five Professional and eight General Service posts. In the Recruitment and Placement Division, two P-4 and three General Service posts had been specifically allocated to the staffing of peace-keeping

(Ms. Wells)

missions. Over the six-month period, the Division had recruited more than 300 Professional and 400 General Service staff for peace-keeping missions and assigned 160 Professional and 310 General Service staff members to such missions. The Division had been able to cope with the increased workload caused by the expansion of peace-keeping operations because it had obtained those five posts in August 1993. Moreover, a request had recently been submitted for three more posts, approval of which had been recommended by the Advisory Committee. If it did not have those posts, the Division's ability to continue providing staff for peace-keeping missions would be seriously impaired.

12. With respect to staff administration, the additional posts had made it possible to deal with benefits and aspects of staff administration for new peace-keeping operations which had not been entrusted to the Field Operations Division. An additional post in the Rules and Personnel Manual Section, which was responsible for revising and interpreting rules and regulations, was absolutely essential if the rules were to be adapted to the changes in United Nations activities. A complete revision of the 300 series of the Staff Rules had been drawn up for consideration by the Fifth Committee. The holder of the post would also address basic issues relating to the delegation of authority to missions for the processing of claims and disciplinary procedures in field missions. If the post were to be abolished, several of those basic activities relating to policy-making and controls would have to be eliminated.

13. With regard to the Medical Service, the Advisory Committee had assigned one P-3 post and three General Service posts in August 1993. Fifty per cent of the medical examinations conducted away from Headquarters and the x-ray examinations conducted at Headquarters, 40 per cent of immunizations and 25 per cent of the examinations carried out by the Medical Service were related directly to peace-keeping operations. The account supporting peace-keeping operations financed only 8 out of 38 posts. Without the four additional posts, the Medical Service would be unable to provide the necessary services to staff recently recruited and to the staff, military observers and civilian police assigned to peace-keeping missions. The processing of the various medical certificates and examinations would be so backlogged that they would probably serve little purpose.

14. The reduction in the posts of the Office of Human Resources Management, which had already absorbed considerable reductions in staff in the recent past, would render whole sections unable to perform their duties. In that situation, it was difficult to request the officers in charge of the programmes for an explanation regarding the performance of the functions assigned to them if they did not have the requisite human and financial resources.

15. The proposal to eliminate six General Service posts in the Purchase and Transportation Service might appear insignificant. Nevertheless, the support staff in that Service provided assistance to the Professional staff, acting as procurement assistants, preparing summaries of bids, carrying out all the office work relating to the bidding process, maintaining computerized rosters of vendors, carrying out the necessary office work for the weekly meetings of the Committee on Contracts, examining invoices and carrying out forwarding

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(Ms. Wells)

activities. The Professional staff in that Service depended to a large extent on that type of support in order to carry out their functions adequately.

16. With regard to security, since the creation of a post in June 1993, the holder had been in charge of the security of United Nations civilian personnel assigned to peace-keeping operations and had spent most of the time providing assistance to UNOSOM in New York and in the field. Provision had been made to assign to that officer duties relating to peace-keeping operations in Mozambique, Liberia, Angola, Georgia, Rwanda, etc. In the light of the increasing number of victims and the demands of Governments and staff, it would be difficult to explain the elimination of that post. Apart from the human factor, the growing number of deaths and wounded was causing a corresponding increase in insurance costs.

17. In compliance with established procedures, and once the Advisory Committee had endorsed the requests submitted by the Secretary-General, measures had been instituted in May and August 1993 to fill posts needed urgently. With the reduction in a number of those posts, the Organization would have to cancel contracts and re-examine its priorities in the areas of accounting, personnel, procurement and security. The contribution of the Department of Administration and Management to peace-keeping operations was essential in order to ensure the correct application of the Financial Regulations and Rules and to enable the Secretary-General to provide proper explanations through the staff members he appointed.

Open-ended working group of the Fifth Committee established by General Assembly resolution 47/218

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.12

18. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh), Rapporteur, introducing draft decision A/C.5/48/L.12 relating to the placement of Member States in the appropriate groups for the apportionment of peace-keeping expenses, as laid down in General Assembly resolution 47/218 II, said that the text before the Committee had been formulated by consensus, thanks to the constructive approach, cooperation and flexibility shown by delegations during their consideration of that delicate and complex question in the open-ended working group. The firm support expressed for the continuation of the work of the open-ended working group in order to consider extensively a number of questions, including the elaboration of criteria for the apportionment of peace-keeping expenses, was reflected in paragraph (a) of the draft decision. Following lengthy discussions, the group had agreed to include Andorra, Monaco, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Eritrea and Madagascar in various groups, as indicated in the various sections of paragraph (b). On the other hand, it had not been possible to reach a consensus on the placement of the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and it had been decided to continue to consider the question during the current session. It was understood that the contributions of those two countries would be calculated for the period that had elapsed since their admission until a definitive decision was taken as to which group they should be assigned. The question of the placement of Belarus and Ukraine had also been a very delicate and difficult

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(Mr. Kabir, Bangladesh)

matter. It had been agreed as an interim solution that, for the purposes of the applicability of Article 19 of the Charter relating to the loss of voting rights in the General Assembly, the arrears of those two countries relating to 1992, 1993 and 1994 in the financing of peace-keeping operations would not be taken into account, on the understanding that their contributions would remain outstanding. Obviously, that exceptional measure was of an interim nature and it was not felt at the current stage that there would be any change in the position of Belarus and Ukraine regarding their groups and, consequently, no additional expenses would be entailed for the other Member States. It had been felt that that question should be dealt with urgently.

19. During the informal consultations, repeated emphasis had been placed on the importance of preparing fair, standardized and objective criteria for the apportionment of peace-keeping expenses to replace the system in force. It was hoped that the working group would consider those questions extensively during the current session.

20. The CHAIRMAN said he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft decision A/C.5/48/L.12 without a vote.

21. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.12 was adopted.

22. Mrs. HOLLAND (United Kingdom) said that her delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft decision by consensus, but regretted that agreement could not be reached concerning the placement of the Czech Republic and Slovakia in a group for the apportionment of peace-keeping expenses. That lack of agreement was due to the absence of clear criteria for assigning States to groups and for their reassignment from one group to another. It was a matter for concern that those important issues had to be decided in a totally arbitrary manner; it seemed that the sole criterion to be applied was the desire of each Member State as to which group to belong. That could not be the correct method for apportionment of the expenses of such an important activity of the Organization. The Fifth Committee must tackle that question as soon as possible. Consequently, her delegation welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the open-ended working group established by resolution 47/218, and would do its utmost to ensure that the working group made a full and extensive study of that question, and above all, developed clear and objective criteria for the placement of States in the various groups.

23. Mr. GRANT (United States of America) said that his delegation also regretted that agreement had not been reached on the placement of the Czech Republic and Slovakia in the appropriate groups on the scale of assessments for peace-keeping. Given the great importance of the tasks of the open-ended working group, he hoped that it could begin its work very soon and would prepare fair, standardized criteria for the placement of Member States in the various groups.

24. Mr. HAMIDA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) welcomed the consensus and supported the current system for apportionment of peace-keeping expenses. In his view, the best criterion for the placement of States in the various groups was the desire of each country to be assigned to a specific group. His delegation had joined the consensus for the sake of unity although its views differed from those of other Member States. In his view, the working group had the mandate to establish criteria for the placement of States in the four groups, in compliance with resolution 47/218.

25. Mr. PANEV (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that, although his delegation had joined the consensus, it considered that the arrangement regarding his country was provisional and hoped that a definitive solution would be achieved by the time the group completed its task. His delegation fully agreed with that of the United Kingdom.

26. Mr. BATIOUK (Ukraine) said that, in his delegation's view, item 138 (b), included at the initiative of Ukraine and Belarus, called for an examination of the relocation of those two countries to group (c). Since the consideration of that question had been deferred, he felt that item 138 (b) should be kept on the agenda of the General Assembly until the matter was finally settled.

AGENDA ITEM 127: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.11 and draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.13

27. Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados), submitting draft decision A/C.5/48/L.11 and draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.13, said that those texts were the result of arduous consultations. He recommended that both should be adopted without a vote.

28. With regard to draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.13, although during the consultations there had been major differences of opinion on the elements to be incorporated in the preparation of the scale for the period 1995-1997, the need to adopt a coherent and transparent methodological criterion in the preparation of future scales had been unanimously recognized. Emphasis had been placed on the need to provide the Committee on Contributions with clear guidelines, drafted so that its members could apply their technical know-how in the formulation of recommendations to the General Assembly. He thought that those objectives had been reached and that the resultant draft resolution was reasonably clear and eminently well-ordered.

29. Section B of the draft resolution contained the guidelines in accordance with which the Committee on Contributions was requested to prepare the scale of assessments for the period 1995-1997. Some of the elements of those guidelines required explanation or clarification. During the consultations, it had not been possible to agree on a single statistical base period. It had been possible to reach agreement on that element only by resorting to a new procedure, that of requesting the Committee on Contributions to calculate the next scale on the basis of the average of two separate machine scales based on statistical base periods of 7 and 8 years, respectively. It was envisaged that the Committee on Contributions should make an average of the two separate scales

(Mr. Maycock, Barbados)

before applying such adjustments as might be necessary. The elements relating to uniform exchange rates and the debt adjustment approach would apply in the same way as had been done in the preparation of the current scale, as was indicated in paragraph 1 (b) and (c). In paragraph 1 (f), an attempt was made to determine the time-limit for the phasing out of the scheme of limits, which agreed in principle with resolution 46/221 B. The objective was gradually to phase out the scheme of limits over two scale of assessment periods, namely, in 1995-1997 and 1998-2000, phasing out half of its effects in the first period and the rest in the second. It had been left to the Committee on Contributions to determine the precise method for obtaining those results. The purpose of paragraph 2 was to temper to some extent the effects of the phasing out of the scheme of limits, in order that countries like the Republic of Korea, which, for technical reasons, now benefited from the system, might be included among those that remained partially exempt from the phase-out procedure. The purpose of paragraph 3 was to take into account the particular experiences of the 22 Members that had emerged from the former Soviet Union, the former Republic of Yugoslavia and former Czechoslovakia. In that regard, particular consideration had been expressed for the very special circumstances of Belarus and Ukraine, and it was envisaged that the Committee on Contributions should take up that question in the process of preparing the new scale.

30. Section C of the draft resolution was future-oriented. In paragraph 1, the Committee on Contributions was requested to undertake a thorough and comprehensive review of all aspects of the scale methodology with a view to making it stable, simpler and more transparent and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. The Committee on Contributions would undertake the preparation of the new scale at its next session. It might appear at first sight that paragraph 2 of section C contradicted paragraph 1. It was envisaged that the ad hoc body whose establishment was requested in the resolution, once its mandates and modalities had been determined, would meet during 1994 or at the beginning of 1995 in order that the Committee on Contributions might have its report before it at its fifty-fifth session in 1995. The body would submit its report to the Fifth Committee at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, and the observations of the Committee on Contributions concerning that report would be submitted jointly with the report of the Committee. Thus, the General Assembly would be in a position to decide on a new methodology.

31. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to draft decision A/C.5/48/L.11, submitted by him on the appointment of Ambassador Syed Amjad Ali as member emeritus of the Committee on Contributions, in recognition of his distinguished service as Chairman of that body for 27 years. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decision without a vote.

32. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.11 was adopted.

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33. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) said that her delegation regretted that it had not been possible to reach agreement on the elements of paragraph 3 of resolution 46/221 B, particularly the increase of the relief factor and also the period in which the scheme of limits was to be phased out. The provisions of paragraph 1 (f) and paragraph 4 of that resolution contained means of shielding the developing countries from the negative effects of the scheme of limits. In connection with section C of the draft resolution, which would be considered once the Committee on Contributions had done its work, there should be a study of all the elements that had been taken into account so far with regard to the methodology.

34. Mr. PANEV (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.13, but, as an interested party, it found the decision contained in paragraphs 1 and 4 of section A disappointing, because his country's assessment had been obtained by simply dividing up the assessment of the former Yugoslavia. No account had been taken of the real economic situation of his country, and the data supplied by the former Yugoslav authorities had been utilized. He hoped that the new guidelines set forth in the draft resolution would enable the Committee on Contributions to establish his country's quota in a way that better accorded with reality.

35. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.13 without a vote.

36. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.13 was adopted.

37. Mr. YOO (Republic of Korea), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation wished to place it on record that it had joined the consensus on the understanding that paragraph 2 of section B of the draft resolution would apply to the Republic of Korea and was valid for the next two scale periods, namely, 1995-1997 and 1998-2000.

38. Mr. TANG (China) said that his delegation had joined the consensus in spite of its reservations with regard to paragraph 2 of section C of the draft resolution, on the understanding that the delegation that had proposed that paragraph was not denying the principle of capacity to pay.

39. Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium) said that the draft resolution would, to some extent, allow 22 Member States to cope with the difficulties to which they had not found a solution the previous year and which could be resolved only within the framework of a methodology in which distorting factors had largely been eliminated. The adoption of the draft resolution by the General Assembly would constitute a first step towards the adoption of a more transparent methodology based on reliable, verifiable and comparable data.

40. Mr. KAWAY (Japan) said that his delegation, although it did not consider the draft resolution totally satisfactory, had decided to join the consensus on the understanding that the new scale would not produce major changes in the contributions of Member States and that the burden of the phasing-out of the scheme of limits would be uniformly distributed among them. Japan accepted the

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(Mr. Kaway, Japan)

provisions of paragraph 1 (f) of section B of the draft resolution on the understanding that the scheme of limits would be phased out in the period 1995-1997, so that assessments would not vary dramatically. That did not mean that Japan would unconditionally accept the conclusions of the Committee on Contributions. There was a growing tendency to focus debates concerning methodologies for the scale on the technical aspects of specific criteria that were considered particularly harsh for a small number of Member States. It was urgently necessary to carry out a comprehensive study with inputs from outside the United Nations. For that reason, Japan received with satisfaction the decision to establish an ad hoc body to study the implementation of the principle of capacity to pay and hoped that an agreement would be reached on its mandates and modalities at the beginning of the continuation of the current session. For the purpose of determining the methodology to be applied in the scale for the period 1998-2000, the work of that ad hoc body would have to be taken into account.

41. Mr. BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the understanding that the Committee on Contributions would continue to determine the assessments of countries experiencing exchange-rate difficulties on the basis of price-adjusted rates of exchange, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/221 B, paragraph 3 (b) (iv), and as reiterated in part B, paragraph 1 (b), of the draft resolution just adopted. With regard to paragraph 2, his delegation had joined the consensus on the understanding that the limit of 15 per cent resulting from the phasing out of the scheme of limits would apply to the next two periods, 1995-1997 and 1998-2000.

42. Mr. MILLER (Canada) said that the adoption of the draft resolution represented a first step in the difficult process of eliminating the distorting effects of the formula and methodology for the scale of assessments. He hoped that the new scale would represent another step forward in the rationalization process undertaken.

43. Mr. ABULPHAIZOVICH (Kazakhstan) said that he supported the proposal made by the representative of China that the statement by the representative of Barbados should be circulated as an official document of the Fifth Committee. He welcomed the adoption of draft decision A/C.5/48/L.11 and draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.13; his delegation would make a statement in explanation of vote in the plenary meeting.

44. Mr. HAMIDA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation had had misgivings about paragraph 1 (a); it would have preferred the agreement to have been based on the entire statistical base period; unlike in the case of earlier General Assembly resolutions, the confused text of the draft resolution would complicate implementation of the method. His delegation had serious reservations with respect to paragraph 1 (d), concerning the low per capita income allowance formula with a per capita income limit, since its implementation would interfere with the modality used with respect to the least developed countries. It was inappropriate and unnecessary for the formula, which had been developed in order to alleviate the burden for low-income

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(Mr. Hamida, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

countries, to have become part of the method; the situation of the countries in question was dealt with in paragraph 4, which stated that individual rates for the least developed countries should not exceed their current level. With regard to paragraph 3, he said that the Committee on Contributions would submit its recommendations to the Fifth Committee at the following session, which would not affect the scale for the period 1995-1997.

45. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) said that the method provided for in the draft resolution contained an element that had a distorting effect on the Russian Federation's capacity to pay. For many years, the Soviet Union had contributed to the regular budget under the scheme of limits; following the disintegration of the Russian Federation, that heavy burden had been transferred to the successor States. The Russian Federation had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.13 with a number of reservations, and on the understanding that the scheme of limits would be eliminated as soon as possible, in accordance with the agreement in principle reached in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/221. In that connection, the Russian Federation had decided, despite its dissatisfaction about the increase in the distorting effect of the methodology, to join the consensus in view of the complications that would otherwise arise for many States, particularly developing countries. Since many States had benefited from the methodology, the Russian Federation hoped that the Committee on Contributions would consider the matter and take firm action with a view to eliminating the scheme of limits, in accordance with paragraph 1 (f).

AGENDA ITEM 123: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995
(continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/48/L.24/Rev.1 on agenda item 24 (United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s)

46. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee was recommending adoption of the draft resolution, which would give rise to an additional appropriation of \$152,500 under section 8 of the proposed programme budget, subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

47. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/48/64) and the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/48/L.24/Rev.1, an additional appropriation of \$152,500 would be required under section 8 (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211.

48. It was so decided.

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Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/48/L.51 on agenda item 47
(Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995)

Draft resolution A/48/L.51

49. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that adoption of draft resolution A/48/L.51 would result in the establishment, on an exceptional basis, of a post of Special Adviser at the Under-Secretary-General level against general temporary assistance resources for organizing and coordinating activities relating to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The Secretary-General, in document A/C.5/48/65, had indicated that he had made provision under section 1 of the proposed programme budget, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, for a post of Special Adviser, four Professional posts (one D-1, one P-5, one P-4 and one P-3) and seven General Service posts, and that should the General Assembly approve those resources, no additional appropriations would be required.

50. The Advisory Committee, in paragraph I.10 of its report (A/48/7) had recommended that, as long as no specific legislative mandate existed, a D-1 post and two General Service posts in support of activities relating to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations should be funded under section 24, Public Information. The Advisory Committee was now recommending that funding should be provided under section 24 for a post at the Under-Secretary-General level, three Professional posts (one P-5, one P-4 and one P-3) and four General Service posts for the Special Adviser and related office staff. Should the Advisory Committee's recommendation be approved, no additional appropriations would be required.

51. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba), supported by Mr. CHUINKAM (Cameroon), asked whether the Advisory Committee's recommendation meant that the posts in question had to be absorbed under section 24.

52. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) asked why the Secretariat had not suggested such alternative methods of funding the posts as redistributing resources or using the contingency fund. He also asked what impact the absorption of the posts would have on the activities already programmed under section 24.

53. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee's recommendation would mean that the resources for the post would be provided by the Department of Public Information and that, as a result, no additional appropriation would be required.

54. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the Secretary-General, in paragraph 4 of document A/C.5/48/65, indicated that, should the General Assembly not approve the appropriation of those resources, an additional appropriation would be required. Aside from one D-1 post and two General Service posts, whose funding under section 24 had been recommended by the Advisory Committee in its report to the General Assembly (A/48/7), in the view of the Secretary-General other posts were required. Although the Advisory Committee now recommended that three more

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(Mr. Takasu)

Professional posts and four more General Service posts should be funded under section 24, in view of the fact that the draft resolution on the draft programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 was only being brought into line with what the Advisory Committee had recommended in its report, he felt that those posts should be absorbed under section 24 without increasing the staffing level or the resources allocated for that activity, which might create difficulties. Furthermore, draft resolution A/48/L.51 indicated that the post of the Special Adviser at the Under-Secretary-General level would have to be funded through general temporary assistance resources. The resources indicated under the item on general temporary assistance in section 24 were earmarked to defray costs arising from the holding of special conferences, of which five or six were scheduled, so that there would also be difficulties in funding the post of Special Adviser by means of those resources.

55. Mr. FRANCIS (Australia) asked why, in view of the situation, no use was being made of the contingency fund.

56. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that it was the prerogative of the Fifth Committee to recommend the use of the contingency fund if it was of the view that adequate resources were not available under section 24 of the proposed programme budget.

57. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba), Mr. SERME (Burkina Faso) and Mr. BEN HAMIDA (Tunisia) asked why those posts would be funded under section 24, whose resources were rather limited.

58. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the proposed course of action reflected the recommendation contained in paragraph I.10 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/48/7) that the activity should be funded from the resources available to the Department of Public Information.

59. The CHAIRMAN said that, if no specific proposal had been formulated, he took it that the Fifth Committee, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, wished to inform the General Assembly that, if it adopted draft resolution A/48/L.51, there would be no need for any additional appropriation.

60. It was so decided.

61. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba), Mr. SERME (Burkina Faso) and Mr. NDOBOLI (Uganda) said that the adoption of that draft resolution should not be to the detriment of activities whose implementation by the Department of Public Information was already provided for under section 24 of the proposed programme budget and they also expressed the hope that there would be a special statement to that effect in the budget performance reports.

62. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) hoped that that decision would not set a precedent. The Secretariat had not proposed as an alternative the redistribution of resources from one department to another and it was not the responsibility of the Advisory Committee to carry out such a redistribution.

63. Mr. FRANCIS (Australia) said that, if difficulties arose in funding those activities under section 24, the Secretary-General should make that known in the first budget performance report.

International Computing Centre: proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/C.5/48/8)

64. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee was recommending approval of the budget estimates for the International Computing Centre for the biennium 1994-1995 in the amount of \$25,099,000. The amount relating to participation by the United Nations had already been included in the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995, given which approval of the estimates would not give rise to any additional appropriation.

65. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said that there was a discrepancy between document A/C.5/48/8 and section 26 of the proposed programme budget with regard to the figures for United Nations participation in the budget of the International Computing Centre. He also said that there was an increase in the post categories without any justification given for that in the document and he wished to be provided with an explanation in that connection. He also inquired whether it would be possible to obtain an audited financial statement of the Centre's accounts since, although the budget was submitted for adoption by the Fifth Committee, the Committee never received any corresponding audited financial statement.

66. Mr. HALBWACHS (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the International Centre's accounts were verified by WHO and the expenditures were set forth in those documents. He was unable to reply to the question raised by Canada concerning the posts and said that it would be necessary to refer that question to the Director of the Centre.

67. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should approve the budget estimates for the International Computing Centre for the year 1994 in the amount of \$25,099,000.

68. It was so decided.

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/C.5/48/16)

69. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that in document A/C.5/48/16 approval was sought for a subvention for UNIDIR of \$220,000 from the regular budget of the United Nations. In paragraph II.20 of the Advisory Committee's report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/48/7), the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the subvention to UNIDIR and reiterated its recommendation that

(Mr. Mselle)

every effort should be made to secure unrestricted contributions so that the charges to the regular budget could be minimized.

70. The CHAIRMAN proposed, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, that the Fifth Committee should adopt the recommendations of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters to grant to UNIDIR a subvention of \$220,000 from the regular budget of the United Nations for 1994. He also proposed that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, if it decided to adopt the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, there would be no need for an additional allocation under section III B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.34 and draft decision A/C.5/48/L.36

71. Mr. OSELLA (Argentina), Vice-Chairman, said that thanks to the political will on the part of all the Member States, it had been possible to analyse properly each of the budget sections and arrive at the decisions set forth in draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.34. The document before the Fifth Committee represented a delicate political balance which should be maintained in its entirety. He introduced orally several minor drafting changes in the text of the draft resolution and said that after informal consultations, it had been decided to delete paragraphs 21 and 22 of the draft resolution. While the oral amendments that he had just made were the result of last-minute negotiations, they did not change the sense of the draft text. Since the text had been drawn up on the basis of consensus, he recommended that it should be adopted without a vote. The negotiations had also resulted in draft decision A/C.5/48/L.36. As suggested by experts on the Fifth Committee, he made the following oral amendments: in the third line, the phrase "1993 expenditures" should be replaced by the phrase "1992-1993 accounts". Since those amendments did not change the substance of the draft decision, he recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

72. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Fifth Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.34 without a vote.

73. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.34 was adopted.

74. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) said that her delegation had several reservations with regard to draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.34. Demonstrating great flexibility, Cuba had gone along with the allocation of resources for activities that had been approved well after the Secretary-General had submitted his programme budget proposals, i.e., during the current session. That was the case with a number of items under section 3, relating to electoral assistance, and others under section 23, relating to mine clearance. A further sign of her delegation's flexibility in the negotiations on the draft resolution was the fact that it had agreed to section 21, on the condition that the question of posts would be reviewed at a later stage. Its reservations regarding the proposal for that section stemmed from the fact that the Secretariat had never submitted to the Committee a workload justification for the transfer or redeployment of posts or the establishment of new ones. Her delegation hoped

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(Mrs. Goicochea, Cuba)

that the Secretariat would carry out the study on workload standards requested of it and would in future avoid placing the Fifth Committee in a position where it had to complete its negotiations without having the relevant documentation. In the future her delegation would not demonstrate the same degree of flexibility or spirit of cooperation with regard to the adoption of resolutions or negotiations. The Secretariat must strictly comply with intergovernmental mandates, established priorities and the rules and regulations governing the entire process. As to paragraph 17, she reaffirmed the importance which her delegation attached to intergovernmental dialogue, which must also take into account the Main Committees of the General Assembly. With regard to paragraph 25, her delegation looked forward to the Secretary-General's proposals and regretted that the document submitted contained only incomplete narratives for the individual sections. As to paragraph 67, her delegation looked forward with keen interest to the Secretary-General's report on the proposal to abolish posts in the Office of Conference Services. Any further deterioration in the quality of the services provided by that Office must be avoided. Lastly, the great pressure under which the Fifth Committee had worked did not justify the fact that the cordial, positive and friendly atmosphere that had prevailed in the past had become tense and, at times, aggressive and coercive. That was unacceptable, since all delegations represented sovereign States, which should be able to negotiate on an equal footing.

75. Mr. CLAVIJO (Colombia) said that the negotiations on draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.34 had made it possible to fill several gaps in its programmatic content, especially in the political area. Such gaps must be avoided in future so that the programme budget would not become an instrument of programmatic policy but rather would continue to be a means for implementing agreed mandates. In the economic and social sectors, the three newly established departments and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) needed to delimit more clearly their respective spheres of action so that the developing countries would reap the maximum benefit from their activities. His delegation awaited the Secretary-General's proposals concerning decentralization, which would affect the regional commissions in particular. It trusted that the Secretary-General would be guided in his efforts by the views expressed by Member States in General Assembly resolution 47/212 B, inter alia. The negotiations had been particularly productive with regard to the allocation of resources for the economic and social sectors: the post of Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) had been confirmed and the institutional identity of the activities undertaken by UNCTAD with respect to transnational corporations had been preserved, at least in part.

76. Colombia hoped that the possible establishment of a section in the budget relating to Africa would facilitate the allocation of additional resources for the development of that continent. It also hoped that the adoption of the draft resolution would lead to the speedy appointment of the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC). In general, the resources allocated under the resolution to the economic and social sectors were not sufficient to meet the needs identified in the medium-term plan, which included, inter alia, the economic development of the developing countries and African development. Colombia hoped that that situation would be rectified in the course of the

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(Mr. Clavijo, Colombia)

biennium. In addition, there was a need to improve the format of the budget so that there could be a substantive discussion of extrabudgetary resources, which were of great importance to the actual priorities of the Organization.

77. Ms. ERIKSSON FOGH (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, welcomed the adoption by consensus of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and expressed her profound gratitude to the Vice-Chairman of the Committee for his dedication and competence. The Nordic countries regretted that the late submission of the proposed programme budget and the related report of the Advisory Committee had made it impossible to carry out the kind of in-depth review which the budget proposals warranted. The Nordic countries nevertheless considered that the proposed programme budget adequately reflected the Organization's priorities for the forthcoming biennium in the interrelated spheres of peace and international security and economic and social development.

78. The Nordic countries would have liked to see agreement reached on the Secretary-General's proposals concerning financing from the regular budget of additional posts in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. In their view, a decision on that matter would have to be taken at the resumed session. In addition, they would have been prepared to support an appropriation for follow-up activities to the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna, and to finance the work of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the basis of the cost estimates submitted by the Secretary-General.

79. Given the impossibility of reaching an agreement on the financing of all the posts proposed by the Secretary-General for the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the Nordic countries welcomed the assurance given by the Secretary-General that he would continue to consider the necessity of financing from the regular budget a greater proportion of the Department's core functions.

80. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.34 provided for various across-the-board cuts in general operating expenses and travel. The Nordic countries believed that it should have been possible to achieve savings in all the sections of the budget. That measure, and others, such as maintaining the total appropriation for consultants and experts at the level of the total revised appropriation for the biennium 1992-1993, would help to promote the optimum use of the limited resources available.

81. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) said that her delegation attached particular importance to paragraphs 11 to 13 of draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.34. It regretted, in particular, that the Secretary-General had not responded adequately in the context of the current budget proposals to the requests set out in paragraphs 8 to 10 of section II of resolution 47/212 B, and it hoped that he would make specific proposals in that regard in the coming months.

82. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said that Canada, which paid its assessments fully and on time, made voluntary contributions and supported the policy objectives of the Secretariat as reflected in the proposed programme budget, hoped that it had made it clear that in the questions it had asked of the Secretariat and in the

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(Mr. Merifield, Canada)

formal and informal meetings, it had not at any time intended to hamper the budgetary process.

83. With regard to the policy aspects of the draft resolution, Canada was aware that it was difficult in a zero-growth budget to redistribute resources, but it nevertheless believed that greater resources from the regular budget should have been allocated to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. It hoped that the review referred to in paragraph 41, concerning section 4, would provide the Committee with additional information and that the Committee would be able to pay closer attention to the regular-budget requirements of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

84. As his delegation had stated during the discussion of resolution 47/213, the Secretariat should provide information concerning the budget preparation process. In particular, his delegation wished to draw the attention of the Secretariat to paragraphs 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the draft resolution, which related to greater transparency of the budgetary process and aimed at improving the relationship between the Secretariat and Member States in respect of the Organization's real needs. His delegation believed that the information on financial resources provided to the Advisory Committee should be made available to all Member States so that they could have a better idea of the Organization's real requirements and could allocate to it the resources it actually needed. His delegation concurred with the observations contained in the resolution on the review of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and believed that the Secretariat should do its utmost to make optimum use of the resources which Member States made available to it.

85. Mr. OWADE (Kenya) supported the statement made by Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77. The draft resolution sent a clear message to the Secretariat that the budget was not to be used as a policy instrument but rather as a means of implementing the mandates agreed on by Governments. His delegation would speak at greater length on that subject in plenary meeting.

86. Mr. RANASINGHE (Sri Lanka) agreed with the Kenyan representative and said that the Secretariat and the Secretary-General were expected to take action on the draft resolution without delay.

87. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.36, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

First reading (continued)

Expenditure sections

88. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee, in the light of the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/48/L.34, to take action on the appropriations under individual sections of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 in first reading.

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89. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$37,370,100 under section 1 was approved in first reading.

90. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for no appropriation under section 2 was approved in first reading.

91. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$67,970,400 under section 3 was approved in first reading.

92. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$86,926,600 under section 4 was approved in first reading.

93. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$18,329,400 under section 5 was approved in first reading.

94. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for no appropriation under section 6 was approved in first reading.

95. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$32,490,000 under section 7 was approved in first reading.

96. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$49,805,600 under section 8 was approved in first reading.

97. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$46,749,700 under section 9 was approved in first reading.

98. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$29,385,800 under section 10 was approved in first reading.

99. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$108,296,400 under section 11A was approved in first reading.

100. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$19,982,200 under section 11B was approved in first reading.

101. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$11,384,500 under section 12A was approved in first reading.

102. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$11,854,300 under section 12B was approved in first reading.

103. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$4,638,200 under section 13 was approved in first reading.

104. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$13,998,700 under section 14 was approved in first reading.

105. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$77,845,000 under section 15 was approved in first reading.

106. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$59,846,200 under section 16 was approved in first reading.
107. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$44,684,500 under section 17 was approved in first reading.
108. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$79,992,600 under section 18 was approved in first reading.
109. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$38,226,600 under section 19 was approved in first reading.
110. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$42,910,000 under section 20 was approved in first reading.
111. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$35,513,300 under section 21 was approved in first reading.
112. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$45,329,400 under section 22A was approved in first reading.
113. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$21,007,900 under section 22B was approved in first reading.
114. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$18,541,200 under section 23 was approved in first reading.
115. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$130,788,900 under section 24 was approved in first reading.
116. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$888,285,100 under section 25 was approved in first reading.
117. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$26,192,800 under section 26 was approved in first reading.
118. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$31,780,400 under section 27 was approved in first reading.
119. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$402,764,900 under section 28 was approved in first reading.
120. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$18,841,500 under section 29 was approved in first reading.
121. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$58,306,900 under section 30 was approved in first reading.
122. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for no appropriation under section 31 was approved in first reading.

123. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for a total budget appropriation of \$2,560,039,100 for the biennium 1994-1995 was approved in first reading.

Income sections

124. The estimate of \$409,180,100 recommended by the Advisory Committee under income section 1 was approved in first reading.

125. The estimate of \$59,258,800 recommended by the Advisory Committee under income section 2 was approved in first reading.

126. The estimate of \$6,778,700 recommended by the Advisory Committee under income section 3 was approved in first reading.

127. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its first reading of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/C.5/48/52)

128. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the report of the Secretary-General on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/C.5/48/52). The Committee noted that the Secretary-General was requesting changes in a number of existing commitment authorities, including his own. In paragraph 2, he requested that the current authority to commit up to \$3 million for the maintenance of peace and security should be increased to \$6 million. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of a limit of \$5 million. The Advisory Committee agreed with the changes proposed by the Secretary-General in the other commitment authorities, as outlined in paragraph 5, subparagraphs (1) to (5). The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the draft resolution contained in the annex to document A/C.5/48/52 should be adopted as revised to reflect its proposal for a figure of \$5 million in paragraph 1 (a).

129. The draft resolution contained in the annex to document A/C.5/48/52, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates (A/C.5/48/63)

130. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the report of the Secretary-General on the contingency fund (A/C.5/48/63) did not include the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/48/L.24/Rev.1 on the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. The statement submitted by the Secretary-General in that connection indicated an amount of \$152,500 as the requirement under section 8 (A/C.5/48/64, para. 4). Thus, the total amount to be drawn from the contingency fund was \$3,955,900 rather than the amount of \$3,803,400 proposed by the Secretary-General. The balance in the contingency fund would be \$20 million less \$3,955,900.

131. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) asked whether the decisions taken concerning the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and possibly the decision to be taken on the Ad Hoc International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Grave Breaches of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991 would grant commitment authorities chargeable to the contingency fund for 1994-1995. He wished to know the amounts involved.

132. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) replied that the decision as to whether to draw down from the contingency fund would be made at the time the Fifth Committee considered either the report of the Advisory Committee or the report of the Secretary-General in each case. For example, the Committee had authorized a commitment of additional resources for implementing the Vienna Declaration. The Advisory Committee would reconsider that question early in 1994 and submit a report to the Committee. If additional appropriations were necessary, the Advisory Committee would recommend the extent to which they should be covered by the contingency fund.

133. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/211, the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the appropriation of \$3,803,400 under the relevant sections of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, as distributed in paragraph 2 of document A/C.5/48/63. He further proposed that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that a balance of \$15,044,100 would remain in the contingency fund. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the proposal without a vote.

134. It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

135. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that a consensus had been achieved in the informal consultations on the financing of all 17 peace-keeping operations. The final text of a chapeau resolution and 17 draft decisions on the individual peace-keeping operations would be issued the following day. The draft decisions specified the amount of the authority granted and, in most cases, an amount of assessment.

The meeting rose at 2.40 a.m.